

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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*****For Immediate Release*****

Date: December 1, 2006
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“School Bus / Van Collision sends 5 people to Hospital”

Ten people were injured, 5 being transported to St. Peter’s Hospital, when a Yelm School District bus struck a Dodge van at the corner of State Route 507 and Old McKenna Road in rural Thurston County. The roadway was blocked for approximately 3 hours for the investigation.

The December 1st incident occurred at 2:42 p.m. when the State Patrol began to receive reports of a collision involving a school bus, northbound on SR-507 at Old McKenna Road. The Yelm School District bus, driven by 35-year-old Stacy J. Rochester-Matthews of Yelm was northbound on SR-507 approaching Old McKenna Road. The 1991 Dodge van, Driven by 35-year-old Kimberly A. Armstrong of Yelm was northbound on SR-507, stopping for traffic in order to turn on Old McKenna Road. The bus struck the van from the rear, pushing it into the right guardrail. Both drivers were transported to St. Peter’s Hospital with minor injuries. The front seat passenger in the van, 51-year-old Robert L. Schmidt of Yelm was also transported to St. Peter’s with minor injuries. Seven students on the bus sustained minor injuries. Five were treated and released at the scene, 2 were transported to St. Peter’s. Both drivers and the passenger of the van were wearing their seatbelts.

According to investigating Troopers, Armstrong, while not being the cause of the collision, was arrested for Driving Under the Influence of drugs. Schmidt, her passenger was arrested for having Felony drugs and Paraphernalia on his person. Rochester-Matthews will be cited for the collision.

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